Interviewing Men of the Hour

Hon. J. J. Hill, Nearly Missed After Interviewer Had Traveled 1,200 Miles, Talked Five Hours and Forgot His Waiting Friend-"Uncle Joe" Cannon Shies at a Notebook Like a Young Filly at a Thrashing Machine-Weir Mitchell Insists on Accuracy When He Is Quoted-Late Speaker Reed Proudly Showed First Caricature Made of Himself.

By DEXTER MARSHALL.

Sometimes interviewing the man of the hour is easy; but sometimes it isn't.

Once a correspondent started on a twelve-hundred-mile journey from New York to St. Paul for the sole purpose of interviewing James J. Hill-a "man ofthe hour" at all times in the last twenty years-and forgot to take a letter of in-

The correspondent felt some uneasi ness when he realized his omission, but on the night train from Chicago to St. Paul he met Louis W. Hill, the son who now is essaying to fill his father's chair tucked himself into his berth at about mittee rooms.

St. Paul union station at 7 o'clock or thereabouts, the train arrived at high noon. Naturally the correspondent couldn't go to find the Great Northern's and wide variety of his information, nor union was then on the "water water and wide variety of his information, nor value was finished. It was his ambition.

That meant 2 o'clock or thereabouts. In hand. His brain seemed to be as or- line that it was Saturday. The railroad president's derly as a well indexed file; he never had and then retire from the ring. He thought son had disappeared and when the correspondent had reached the Great Northern information he wished to impart, any he would enjoy life as a hotel keeper best, and had in mind a place where he could building it was closed. However, he found a watchman on guard, who said to say. Senator Pettus was a mine of Mr. Hill, a friend, and a few clerks were information also; it was not of as broad in his office on an upper floor. The ele- a range as Morgan's, but he said what to see the boss if he cared to do so.

Does Not Fear Notebooks. He did, and, after half an hour of al- being a characteristic of each ternative waiting and cajoling the boy

at the gate, succeeded in getting his card "To ask about the future of the North-

west," was the message written on the no trouble at all. card, though with some doubts as to its

big men's talk completely.

It didn't freeze Hill's however. It is rhapsodizing for half an hour about th doubtful whether he knew the notebook wine's beautiful greens in summer and the brilliant crimsons and golden yellows slackened the correspondent was all ready with another question. ready with another question; the flow one of the proudest moments of his life continued, and so it went on until the rays of the sun were shining level through the window-till they disappeared-till the electric bulbs began to glow. Then the day had made him the subject of a car-

Bless my soull" exclaimed the builder of the Great Northern, brushing the cigar ashes from his front, "I've forgotten all about that man from Montana. You

really must excuse me."

He fled hastily, but the correspondent was willing, for he had got his inter-

Not So with "Uncle Joe."

view Speaker Cannon in Washington.

Uncle Joe received the writer in "the the grate. The Speaker stood with his ern European languages, as well as in back to the fire and began in his char- English acteristic way. He talked rapidly and the notebook came out. It was nearly a Dickens and Thackeray were his favor-American-English became halted and stopped. More promptly than it was brought forth the notebook was thrust out of sight, and after a little "Uncle

Joe" regained his composure. Beyond a doubt the notebook had given him stage fright, something that the experienced head of the Lower House can face an audience of any size and any grade without experiencing. It took him great admirer of Horace, and he had sev ten or fifteen minutes to forget it, but once it was forgotten he slashed away in great style, saying many things that would have stirred up some folk mightily had he been willing to have them printed, which he pointedly and specifi-

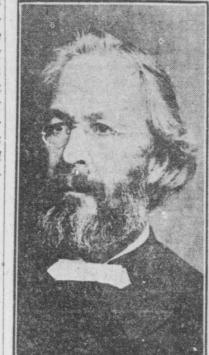
Dr. Mitchell Particular. the notebook when submitting to an inadelphia, novelist, specialist in nervous diseases, gunshot wounds, and snake

He has prided himself almost all his fluence of a letter from a friend, con- en in the ring. sented to talk. After explaining that he dreaded being misquoted above everyif the reporter wrote shorthand. The re-porter didn't, but said he felt equal to keeper and its exact location the correthe task of recording the doctor's words in longhand. Besides he would submit the report before it was printed, and the interview proceeded, but with many interruptions that he might "read back" his barber received a queer procession of

The late Abram S. Hewitt would not talk at all if the reporter took notes. He man, whose apparel included a tall hat, Newspaper interviewers should have good enough memories to carry the longest conversations, he thought, or else get conversations, he thought by the business. He wouldn't look and pencil made him nervous.

This individual had with him his sister of the individual had with him his sister of the memory of the himself, and she had conversations, he thought by themselves. Various other branches, such as city letter carriers, because of the requirements of the work, expensively to their work, which protection, even to the matter work with the matter of the requirements of the requirements of the work, expensively and withdrawal to the protection, even to the matter work with the protection, even to the matter work with the protection, even to the protection of the matter work with the protection of the protect

bama solon, never was known to shy at to a quiet place.



Dr. Parkhurst.

as the Great Northern's president. Louis ferring the "marble room," so-called, W. promised to present the correspondent near the Senate chamber, in which to do to his father, and the newspaper man their talking, to their respective com-

But the weather was against him. A terrific thunderstorm with plenty of rain. In the course of a talk with Senator Morwas in progress when he fell asleep and gan one afternoon, five admiring visitors all night the train plowed its way through from his State broke in and added at a perfect deluge of falling water. At least an hour to the duration of the inabout daylight a washout was encountered and the train was ditched, narrowly escaping a plunge into the Mississippi ly escaping a plunge into the Mississippi sumed in the interview. They were all River. There were hours of delay and from Alabama, too, and naturally they ist, "think a black man is as good as a St. Paul union station at 7 o'clock or while Senator Morgan's callers greeted white one. Well, if he is, why didn't

with the fact that it was unusually well view was finished. It was his ambition fact or any quotation or story which he end his days most comfortably as a vator wasn't running, but the corre- he had to say with a trifle more directspendent could climb the stairs and try ness, perhaps. Both Senators were men experiencing the most exquisite antici-

Reed Proud of Cartoon.

The late Speaker Reed was not an easy

A correspondent who managed to get away from Sullivan. effectiveness. In a moment Hill appear- the guard lowered by means of a cloud. There was a big contrast between the ed, sat down in a wooden chair, and bade of letters of introduction was received two men. Sullivan already was beefy with the greatest courtesy by the "Czar and of short breath, while Corbett was

notebook, but with fear and trembling, This being agreed, the newspaper writer for a notebook chills the flow of some was placed on an easy footing at once big men's talk completely. After

> "It was the first time I had been caricatured," he explained, "and it made me certain I had produced an impression at last. I had the cartoon framed," tinued, pointing to the wall before him has appreciated it, probably, but she never has had the assurance to keep her word and take it down.'

Mrs. Reed emphatically expressed her It won't do to draw a notebook on dislike for the cartoon of which her "Uncle Joe" Cannon. The same corre- band was so proud. However, she liked spondent once made arrangements after the curious little bronze elephant which rather elaborate negotiations to interhe was in the habit of gazing upon, because it was so funny, whenever he felt blue, Reed's talk extended over a wide Speaker's room" and was cordial in his greeting. It was in the spring and an reminiscence, and he showed extensive open coal fire was blazing cheerfully in knowledge of fiction in most of the mod-

"Czar's" Favorite Novelist.

fatal move. "Uncle Joe" became tongue- ite novelists, and Eugene F. Ware's tied at once. The even run of idiomatic verses suited him better than those of any other writer of English verse. The The Speaker hesitated-almost Speaker was particularly fond of the piece which begins: Once a Kansas Zephyr strayed

Where a brass-eyed bird pup played,

And it was worth going all the way to Portland to hear him recite it, lying back in his big easy chair and rolling his head from side to side as he did so. He was a eral different editions of French transla tions of the old Latin poet's odes, from which he read with great gusto to the correspondent for half an hour. The correspondent didn't understand a word of French, but be didn't think it necessary to say so, and he enjoyed the reading immensely; Reed's elocution was so when in the mood, that it didn't There are men of prominence who court matter whether you could understand what he said or not. It was almost as terview. Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, of Phil- good as Modjeska's. She once moved a drawing room full of society folk to tears by reciting the Polish alphabet.

From Speaker of the House to the mpion pugilist of his day is a far cry, He has prided himself almost all his but it so happened that the next man life on being inaccessible to newspaper this correspondent was asked to intermen, but a few years ago, under the in- view was John L. Sullivan, then unbeat-

This Gathering Heterogeneous, Suffivan generally was to be found in thing else, he asked rather aggressively those days at a certain rather sporty keeper and its exact location the correspondent has forgotten. The correspondent had to wait nearly an hour before the champion appeared, and in that time the

visitors. One of them was a tall, thin,

consumptive-looking, white whiskered

was as afraid of being misquoted as Mr. a long frock coat, and a white necktie, about the heart, from the blows of the Mitchell is, but Mr. Hewitt declared the all rather dingy.

This individual had with him his sis-

to a reporter who made any serious blunders.

Morgan and Pettus.

ber, and the correspondent discussed blows upon the well padded boxing are remaies—a most disturbing element mate" was a caution and no mistake. In a fund, and one which is most difficult to deal with. It can be seen, therehad recently made. When John L. ap-The late Senator Pettus, the aged Ala- peared he took the correspondent away had half a dozen pair of hands. Although which the contributions and benefits of From the New York Herald.

Wanted to Run a Hotel and This man stood the punishment a little to the Newspaper Men.

be a Congressman, "like John Morrisey," and he gave an elaborate, but it must be confessed a rather hazy resume of his political views. At that time Sullivan viewed the whole world from the light best man in my class; see?"

John L. Appreciates Merit,

His regard for most other men, therefore, was that of easily maintained superiority. He thought well of other men who were at the top, however, no matter il men to be pugilists, of course.

He had a specially kindly feeling evidently for the educated, even if he didn't negro student to deliver the valedictory, however. It didn't seem quite right, he said, that a negro should receive what

"Eatin'" Sullivan's Ideal.

"When I git my hotel," he declared, leaning back and speaking as if he were of unusual modesty, never being betray- patory joy, "I shall have folk around me ed into a single word of personal exploita- to do, all the work and I shall jist enjoy ion, hatred, or fulsome praise in print myself. Eatin', mostly, he added, rather ruefully, pouring out for himself another glassful of mineral water.

When the correspondent went to interman for the interviewer, but once the big view Jim Corbett that pugilist was at As-Maine man's guard was lowered he made bury Park training himself for the fight in which he took the pugilistic laurels



John L. Sullivan.

for a while every morning, so that he use on the "big fellow," as well as to and his nerves in good trim. He invited the correspondent to see a bout or two. The men had been engaged because of the notion that they were possessed of some time to expatiating on that point They listened to his talk, but seemed lit there was a reason for their lack of in-

Corbett's Trainers Armored,

hurt 'em, and as you see they protect

themselves all they can." come first, having pulled off his sweater rial problems involved. and shirt and got into his trunks, was reclothing his body with the oddest garment the correspondent had ever seen. It was made of flat rubber air bags,

to land, and, despite the inflated rubber the doctor had been and explained that he armor, he was winded completely in a virtually had been guilty of false pre surprisingly short time. tenses and confessed that he had asked the questions because he had wished to Pinch Worse than Punches. print the answers. The doctor smiled

> Keene at His Zenith. A veteran correspondent who was a re-

at that time particularly so. It was soon

after the frightful day on the New York

strike. There had been panic in Wall street, which Keene had checked by

standing on the floor all day, buying

stocks in vast quantities, thus keeping

That day is famous even now in the

annals of the street. It was a terrific

strain for Keene, who was close to seri-

ous brain trouble as a result, but had been taken to Long Branch by the late

Sam Ward (Julia Ward Howe's brother)

and was recuperating under the influence

of the salt sea breezes. Keene refused to

talk at first, but finally consented under

Yet the reporter found his task one of the most difficult he had then encounter-

ed or has encountered to this day. Keenly

alive to the necessity of weighing words

everything down, word for word, and

'read it back" and rewrite and rewrite

hours, but the result gave the reporter a

again. The ordeal lasted five mortal

reputation, although he says modestly

that the interview as printed really was

all Keene's own work, not the inter-

Twain Always Approachable.

Assigned to interview "Mark Twain,"

the market from going all to pieces.

Meanwhile the other man had been getrather grimly, but with a reservation or ting himself into shape to stand up before his employer and was ready, even Alabama's Veteran Senators, to the air cushions, by the time the first Morgan and Pettus, Were Ideal one was exhausted. As he sank breathporter just thirty years ago was told to less and fairly dizzy into a chair. Cor-Subjects for the Reporter's bett, with hardly a perceptible pause, interview James R. Keene, like James J. Hill always a "man of the hour," but Purposes, but Their Friends began to beat a veritable devil's tattoo of blows upon the chest, the ribs, the Insisted Upon Interrupting. neck, and the head of the second man. Stock Exchange following the riotings John L. Sullivan, When He his own wind evidently being entirely in Pittsburg at the time of the railroad

Go to Congress-Keene Fastid- longer than his fellow, but the latter had to endure yet another bout, to which Corious, but Voluble-Dr. Park- bett presently addressed himself with hurst Cleverly Caught-"Mark fore he began at all. At that time Cor-Twain" a Jolly Good Fellow bett was as light as a feather on his feet, while his eye was as "quick as a

He was as happy as a boy over the way of jokes and laughter, but the jokes gave way to execrations, and the laughter was hushed a little later, while he was being rubbed down. One of his men chanced to pinch him a little in the rubbing, which had to be vigorous as a matter of course. It wasn't enough of a pinch to make a ten-year-old boy do more than say "ouch," but it brought out a string of hot language from the man who was preparing to lick Sullivan and actually al-

the financier hesitated over every sentence, and the reporter, who never used a notebook if he could help it, had to take most brought the tears. The "interview" with Corbett amounted what the line of their endeavor, whether to little. He never was half as picturfinancial, political, professional, scholas- esque in his talk as Sullivan always has tic, or even literary; it was not given to been, and never has had much to say except in self-praise

Parkhurst Off His Guard.

Sometimes Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst is viewer's. go much on book learning himself, and usually easy to the interviewer; somehe was rather proud of Harvard Uni- times he isn't. In the former case he tucked himself into his berth at about midnight feeling fairly safe about the midnight feeling fairly safe about the cially good place for an uninterrupted see?" and its president, Charles W. Eliot. Is about as communicative as a clam. A hotel where the humorist was staying, New York reporter who had to see him only to find that he had left ten minutes. conversation with a man as popular as Sullivan didn't approve of the university's then recent course in allowing a on a topic on which the doctor apparently earlier to catch a train for the East, was not likely to talk willingly was puz- Calling a cab, the reporter caught the zling his brains as to the way to approach the noted preacher one day while did not try to see his man that night. standing in front of the Fifth Avenue Next morning, however, he sent his card Hotel looking across Madison Square at to Mr. Clemens by the porter, was in-

vited to share the world's most jocund At that moment the short, erect figure man's breakfast with him in his stateof the doctor aggressively came into room, and before the day was very far view. The reporter never had met him, spent had got the coveted interview and view. The reporter never had met him, but knew him from his pictures. On the impulse the reporter stepped forward and offered his hand, which the doctor shook as cordially as if the two were old friends. After a few sentences about the new church the reporter plumped the questions he wished to ask. The doctor answered them fully and frankly.

Spent had got the coveted interview and was speeding back to Chicago with his notes in his pocket.

Clemens always was good to "the boys," and more than one of them can tell how he has received them in bed propped up on pillows and talked copy to them which lacked none of the feal answered them fully and frankly. At the end the reporter was as frank as (Convicts 1907) inswered them fully and frankly.

At the meeting of the Actuarial Society | geneous divisions, but to establish those of America, held in Toronto on October branches of the main fund safely upon a paper was read by Benedict D. this basis would not only be a me

Flynn, assistant actuary of the Travelers' sion funds, with special reference to a retirement plan for United States Civil Service employes.' It was essentially an exposition and in-

"But I can't talk long," said the railof the House" at his home in Portland, still slender and had "the best wind in road man. "I have left a man from Montana in my office, and I must go back to him in a few minutes."

The correspondent had to ask one questions of the House" at his home in Portland, the best wind in the world." Besides the trainer, he had two men with him to box with, run with, was to be preceded by a description of the commence and Labor, to into the conditions peculiar to the United States government service. This plan is the commence and Labor, to into the world." Besides the trainer, he had two men with him to box with, run with, was to be preceded by a description of the commence and Labor, to into the conditions peculiar to the United States government service. This plan is the conditions peculiar to the united of the civil service, sufficient to provide a fund upon refirement, the one accepted and recommended by the committee on densytment methods. The correspondent had to ask one question only to start the flow of talk. It house and was one of Reed's fads, and

orbett was so much in advance of and.

Mr. Flynn first called attention to the terest, per annum, in the name of and our fleet around to the Pacific. I can't fact that the idea of providing for the to the credit of the employe. Upon ab-They "put on the gloves" with Corbett aged and faithful employe has not yet solute separation from the service before United States civil service employes in ings to provide an annuity at his atcate that the time is not far distant tained age. when the question of national old age pensions will be fully discussed and the credit shall be paid to his estate. Upon justice and advantages of staff pensions attaining the ag

will be more clearly understood. Favors Savings Bank Plan.

Practically all compulsory pension schemes which depend in any degree upon the contributions of their members contain in their rules the privilege of return of the whole or part of the contributions, with or without interest, in case of withdrawal or death before the age of retirement is reached.

"In view of these facts," continued Mr. Flynn, "the question which naturally arises is why there should be any necessity for introducing the elements of mortallty and withdrawal and of the erection of this elaborate statistical structure. Why not eliminate these assumptions entirely, in so far as active members are concerned, and simply accumulate the contributions at compound interest? This saving bank idea, although referred to at various times throughout the discussion of staff pension funds, has never been given the consideration that would seen

"An account could be kept for each member, and the proper return upon death or withdrawal or the amount of pension upon retirement could be de tors to such a scheme would without loubt be treated equitably, and the affairs of the plan would always be in a clear condition. There would still be a fund created by miscellaneous gains, such as savings because of return of contrioutions upon withdrawal at less than the rate of interest allowed in the accumlation, and from excess interest earnings which could be added to or drawn upon accordingly as the experience upon the pensioners was heavier or lighter than expected. The size of this fund, however, would be insignificant as compared with the one based upon rates of with-

drawal or death. Federal Scheme an Example.

"The advantages and adaptability of this method can best be shown in detail by considering a plan which has been proposed recently for the retirement of "I use 'em both every morning, you the United States civil service devised know," said Corbett, "an' I try not to by Mr. Brown, to fit the conditions pe culiar to the United States government As he said this the man who was to sulted especially in regard to the actua-

'The classified civil service of the United States is made up of about 150,000 employes in many different lines of work. situated in various parts of the country which were so strapped around the body Railway postal clerks, for instance, aland subject to widely varying conditions. as to afford protection, particularly though required to pass a rigid physical examination upon entrance, are subjected From the Louisville Courier Journal. to special hazards and conditions incident The necessity for such protection, even to their work, which places them in a class by themselves. Various other branches, to box with Corbett, was apparent as conversations, he thought, or else get out of the business. He wouldn't look at the copy after it was written in order to make any corrections that might be necessary, either, but he made it a rule, he declared, not to talk the second time to a reporter who made any serious to the copy after it was written in order to make any corrections that might be necessary, either, but he made it a rule, he declared, not to talk the second time to make any serious to talk the second time to do hard hitting, of course, for the would have been big risk of a difficult question to say while the parson-like gambler, the bar-he desired. But the way he rained the ber, and the correspondent discussed but the padded "boxing are females—a most disturbing element to do hard hitting, of course, for them, but we have not won their affections. It is a difficult question to say what the whole number of employees are females—a most disturbing element but the present situation is not reassuring.

Col. Harve to do hard hitting, of course, for them, but we have not won their affections greatly from the average for them, but we have not won their affections. It is a difficult question to say what the whole number of employees are females—a most disturbing element but the present situation is not reassuring.

Col. Harve to do hard hitting, of course, for them, but we have not won their affections. It is a difficult question to say what the whole number of employees are females—a most disturbing element but the present situation is not reassuring. a quiet place.
"Let's go where they won't bother us fared little better than a dummy figure upon the same basis with regard to rate to minstrelsy about a mighty hunter from the interviewer's notebook, nor was his colleague, the late John T. Morgan, afraid of it. Senators Pettus and Morgan af

Insurance Company, entitled "Staff pension funds, with special reference to as the proposed scheme."

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PENSIONS FOR THE AGED.

Compulsory Savings Account. "The foundation of the proposed retirement plan is a compulsory saving acdorsement from the actuarial viewpoint count for each government employe, to of the scheme devised by Herbert D. provide for himself in old age or in event Brown, formerly a special examiner for of physical incapacity prior to date of the Bureau of Corporations of the De- retirement. A certain percentage of the seriously taken hold of the American peo-ple, but is beginning to occupy public at-in such event, the employe shall have the ple, but is beginning to occupy public attention, and declared that the interest savings in one sum, or if the amount of savings in one sum, or if the amount of the condition o which has been taken in the retirement the fund to his credit be at least \$1,000, Hop Lee. Did you find out anything scheme worked out by Mr. Brown for he shall have the option of using his say-

attaining the age of retirement, the em-ploye may withman his savings in one

of the following methods:

Option 2. An annuity payable quarterly throughon 4. An income payable certain for a limited

"The proper age for compulsory retirement in the civil service differs according to the particular division which is under observation. There are provided, herefore, three groups, into which vaous branches of the service are to be States, the age for the first being sixty years, for the second sixty-five years,

and for the third seventy years.

May Retain Expert Employes, "As It is often to the advantage of the service to retain an old employe because of his expert knowledge, it is provided in the rules that in such a case the employe may be retained, if he be willing, after the age of retirement for two years and for successive periods of two years each, so long as in the opinion of the head of the department he continues

efficient. "In order that the object of the scheme may not oe defeated in the case of old employes who will not be able in the years remaining before retirement to save hough to provide a proper pension, it is ecessary for the government to supplenent the savings of these old employes so that they may be retired upon a comortable competence. To attain this end

government, as an aid to the scheme, the national convention. Other States which the incident has given rise, guarantees an attractive rate of interest, agrees to stand behind the plan, and to meet the expense of operating it, and sions for themselves through their own

Mistakes Will Happen.

Maria's Midnight Lectures.

LECTURE NO. 10.

"Trying to learn to talk Chinese in a Chinese laundry! Now, Job, I don't believe a word of it. I don't know where you've been all this long while, but you needn't try to make me believe that you've been associating with hip Lee. My, how I dislike those Chinese men. I started once to have 'em do the house laundry, because they're so cheap, and when I went down to see 'em do it I found them spitting water all over the clothes. Don't throw your shoes down in that way, Job. I've just got little Emily off to sleep, and Cousin 'Ginny Osborne's in there with her. 'Ginny came over just after you left the house, and she's been setting here telling me all about her marriage, while I've been reading the paper so's to keep you

"I'm awful interested in this financial muddle, though I can't quite understand it. It seems as if that Mr. Heinze had got Wall street into a pretty pickle -a new one of his fifty-seven varieties, maybe. And then there's the Standard! As far as I can understand it, it has been lending somebody \$32,000,000. It might have lent it to Mr. Heinze and saved all this trouble. I suppose both pickles and oil will be going up in price now, and as for catsup-well, thank heavens the children don't like it, any

"Aren't you glad that Mr. Roosevelt

got that bear down in Louisiana at last? It took so long for them to find it. I reckon it must have been about the last one of the black bears that's left. If that's so, I can't see what they're going to do with all those dogs. First they had Bitter Pete's dogs, and they couldn't find a bear, and then they sent and got Dr. Johnson's dogs, and still no bear; then they got some dogs from Alabama, and another covey of dogs from Tennessee, and then the old guide, Bloody Bill, came in with his dogs, and a few dogs strayed around of their own accord. Those canebrakes must be just bear get around there without running over two or three of them, and a negro had to kill a little bear just because she was trying to knock a few of those fool dogs out of her way. But anyhow, the dogs couldn't scare all the bears away, and so the President shot one with his trusty rifle; just walked right up and shot him, and now they'll have another new rug for the White House; that is if the dogs don't eat the skin. I tell you it's been a mighty successful hunting trip for the President. So far, he's got one deer, two

Mississippi pilots, and a bear! "Did I show you the new dress I bought for Emily to-day? It's moire antique, of the cunningest shade of crushed strawberry, with a gimp of nun's veiling, and the skirt accordion-plaited, with the placquet on the bias. It's the dearest thing! If it wasn't for that carbuncle of hers, I was going to let her wear it to Sunday school to-morrow, but the dressmaker didn't allow for the poultice, and it would throw it all out of shape. Who's going to pay for it I don't know. It surely is about time you were making more money, Job.

"I see the Peace Conference is over at 'last, and they seem to have adjourned quite see just what they've done to prevent war, except talk, and I've always heard that it was too much talk that got men into trouble. By the way, you say you were talking all the evening to about those Chinese Tongs? I've been reading about them in the papers, but it's not very clear, any of it. It seems to be something like the Black Hand, only worse. They throw bombs and things, so that when they're tried in court there won't be any witnesses. I haven't quite found out what the Tongs. are unless it's what they use to pick up the bombs with. I wish you'd find out from Hop Lee the next time you're passing by.

Washington's had a lot of conventions this week, hasn't it? Strikes me as curious that the gas men and the spiritualists should hold their convention in the same week, doesn't it you? I see Prof. Munroe says that gas can easily be furnished at 25 cents a 1,000. I wish they'd do it; we might save enough money on the gas bill to pay for Emily's new dress. As for spiritualism, I don't know what to believe; they say they had a lot of free seances, and if they keep on I guess I'll get you to take me to one of them next week. I never have seen a ghost, and I think I'd like to. I remember Mort Wood's wife, used to be Belle Somers, she got to believing in spiritualism after Mort fell into the thrashing machine, and she went to a medium to get a spirit picture took of Mort. He hadn't been dead more'n four or five weeks. The medium set Belle in a chair in a dark room and told her to call to Mort. Belle was awfully scared, because, while she wanted a picture, all

right, she was not particular keen on having Mort come back. However, she called to him and there was a flash and pretty soon the medium turned up with a photograph of Belle sitting in the chair, and there, right behind her was a ghost-that is, his picture. Belle paid for it, but she has always been deathly afraid that she called up somebody else's husband. Mort had a red beard, you remember, and the man in the picture behind her was only wearing a mustache. Besides, Mort was awfully cross-eyed, and the man in the ghost picture looked as straight at you as could be. Belle said that if that was Mort, he must be glad to be dead, he looked so much better as a ghost than he had as a live farmer. But, I don't know, Job; I don't believe I want any spirit pictures took of you!

I see they're already getting ready for Congress to open, and I guess this next session's going to be an important one. The best thing I've heard of yet is that of the bill they're going to introduce about the street cars-no seat, no fare. I get so everlastingly tired of just looking at the men who won't get up and give us ladies a seat. It's getting to be so there's no manners at all any more, leastwise, street-car manners. My aunt Rosa says she always steps on their toes if they won't get up; but that doesn't always answer. If you're young and pretty the men'll get up fast enough for you; but that doesn't give me much chance, and me the mother of three children. If they don't pass that law, so's we can all have seats, I'm going to take to wearing a thick veil, and maybe the men'll be so curious that they'll take a chance and give me a

Job! Is that you pretending to snore?

For heaven's sake, wake up and talk to me some more. You can be so interesting when you try. Did I tell you about the interesting new paper I got hold of this week? It's called The full of dogs. Why, there couldn't a Canal Record, and its editor-in-chief is Joseph Bucklin Bishop. It's got most everything a newspaper ought to have except a fashion page, and I guess they don't have many fashions down in Panama. The only trouble with the paper is that its politics are weak; but I guess it's for Roosevelt, don't you? Speaking about politics, I see that Mr. Hughes, of New York, says that he doesn't want any office. I suppose that means that he does not want to run for President. I can't understand what's getting into the men. There's Mr. Roosevelt, says he won't run, Mr. Hughes says he doesn't want any office, and even Mr. Bryan seem to want coaxing. Luckily, there's Mr. Taft left, though he is in the Philippines, keeping the peace. He'll run all right, I bet. I do hope the telegraphers' strike won't interfere with any messages he's got to send back to this country. I tell you, he made himself a favorite in this city by saving those historic trees in the Botanic Garden. I'll bet he gets the solid vote of Washington next time. Oh, I know very well that Washingtonians don't have any vote, but I guess the people can go back to their homes and vote for Mr. Taft if they want to. paign, Lize Higgns' boy was working in the Pension Office, and the Remihlicans paid his fare back to Detroit, so's he could vote, and gave him a week's vacation. Jim Higgins went back all right, but there was a circus in Detroit that day, and, after all, he never voted at all, and so Mr. Cleveland was elected. You can never tell about poli-

Wasn't that queer about those convicts out in Pittsburg? Wanted to look at moving pictures instead of singing hymns! The very idea. Even the prisoners in Pittsburg seem to insist on luxury. Why, if they'd have moving pictures and Sunday concerts in prison, we'd all be wanting to go to jail. It would just suit you, Job, to go to prison; you could just sleep all the

time. I never did see such a man! Oh, I got a letter from Nelson this morning; did I tell you? He and Nellie are coming over here next week, and I'm going to ask 'em to stay with us, You see, it's home-coming week in Baltimore, and Nelson says that all of their kinfolk have written in that they're going back to Baltimore; and as they can't entertain him, with the price of victuals as high as it is, they're going to escape out of the town. Nelson says that they'd had an electric sign saying "Welcome" put over their door; and as they can't very well take it down now, they're going to put a "To Rent" sign in the front window. Listen, Job! Is that 'Ginny calling? What is it, 'Ginny? Emily crying! Poor child,

I suppose her carbuncle's twitching again. Do get up and see to her, Job.

Asleep! I supposed so. Whenever there's anything to be done, you can fall asleep like a dormouse. All right 'Ginny dear, I'll be there as soon as I can find my slippers!

STATE PRIMARY LAWS.

From the Chicago Record Herald. the plan contains the provision that any the State governments is apparently cer- with his fellow-religionists, the Methoappropriation be made annually from the United States Treasury tain to produce conflicts over the make-up dists, over the cocktail and "three kinds" which will allow to pensioners in group of the State delegation to the national Re- of wine" incident, is even receiving ata quarterly annuity equivalent to 1 per publican convention. It has always been tention in some of the local newspapers, the custom for the call for the national Our French colleague, Le Courrier du ng the ten years preceding the date of convention to read that "delegates at Mexique, which is a very good paper introduction of the system of savings for each year of service prior to that date, 1 1-4 per cent for group 2, and 1 1-2 per cent for group 3. Convention to read that delegates at the read in order to keep abreast of the questions discussed in many lands, decent for group 3.

It is rumored that there is a possibility House, we fear, offers to help its present old employes who will not be able in the years remaining before retirement to provide penold way, and that as a result the regularly chosen Wisconsin delegates at large will not be eligible to seats. That would mean that any kind of a snap convention

Superiority of the Automobile.

From the New York Globe.

The automobile has come to stay; there seems no reasonable doubt about that. It in Wisconsin which the national man- is so manifestly superior in every way to

FAIRBANKS' FAME GROWS.

Should Be Recognized in Call for Cocktails Carry It Even Into the Far City of Mexico.

From the Mexican Herald. The adoption of direct primary laws by The trouble of Vice President Fairbanks cent for group 3.

"Stating the plan briefly, therefore, the employe is required to provide for himself in old age by systematic saving during his years of service, and the Federal government, as an aid to the scheme, the particular conventions, but it does provide a different means of choosing delegates at large to the particular conventions. Other States Where, indeed? Not in the eWhite

Superiority of the Automobile.

agers of the party should choose to rec- other methods of untracked transporta-

Col, Harvey Pleased.

will decide to issue a call which varies | Col. G. B. M. Harvey actually has a from the old phrasing sufficiently to pro- word of praise for Mr. Roosevelt this rom the old phrasing suincered to provide for the seating of delegates chosen by whatever methods their respective State laws provide.

Word of place to week. To be sure, it is only because the President dared to drink that glass of champagne at St. Louis, but "timeo